
V. REMARKS

In the final Office Action, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Hashimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,390,842). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The first lock piece 82 referred to in the final Office Action is not planar as opposed to the planar lock piece recited in the claims of the present application. Thus, the height of the connector may be reduced. Also, the second lock piece 33 referred to the final Office Action does not adjoin a forefront of the flexible portion as opposed to the second lock piece recited in the claims of the present application. Further, the second lock piece 33 does not cover a portion of an open surface adjoining the insert face. Thus, the card is stopped by the second lock piece of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claims 1, 6 and 10 as amended above. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 6 and 10 are allowable over the applied art at least for the reasons discussed above.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 7-9 depend from claim 6 and include all of the features of claim 6. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 5 is canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claim 11 depends from independent claim 6 and also includes features not shown in the applied art.

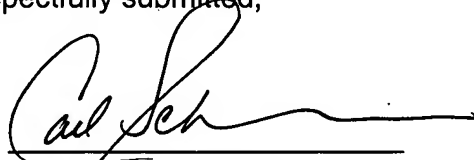
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 22, 2004

By:



Carl Schaukowitch

Reg. No. 29,211

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC

1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel: (202) 955-3750

Fax: (202) 955-3751

Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s): Request for Continued Examination
Amendment Transmittal

DC177749.DOC